



For Immediate Release

February 9, 2014

## Rotary Recognizes Outstanding Community Members

MONCTON, NB, Canada – Friday, January 31st, Rotarians gathered at the Crowne Plaza downtown Moncton to celebrate the 41st annual Charter Night for the Rotary Club of Moncton West and Riverview. President Andrew Friel welcomed guests to the Club including Rotary exchange students Welmoed Wessels from Holland and Ana Clara de Menezes Bezerra from Brazil, as well as Rtn. Kevin Duguay from Peterborough, Ontario and Assistant Governor 7810 Chuck Steeves from the Rotary Club of Moncton.

Michael Walsh, Governor Elect 7810 brought greetings from the District having just returned from RI training and conferences in San Diego. Walsh stressed the importance of strengthening the fight to eradicate polio. "Two viruses are gone, but the most deadly still remains. In 1988, polio infected and disabled about 350,000 people a year, most of them children." In 2013, fewer than 400 cases were reported – a reduction of more than 99 percent. Without eradication, a resurgence of polio could paralyze more than 200,000 children worldwide every year within a decade. Walsh continued, "\$4 billion is needed to accomplish this task and once again the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will match Rotary dollars 3:1 in this fight." We are this close. Before he turned the podium over to emcee Rtn. Greg Turner, he shared a video inviting guests to "Come Join Us."

The highlight of the evening was hearing of the tremendous contributions to our community when four non-Rotarians were bestowed Paul Harris Fellow Recognitions for their efforts. Paul Percy Harris (1868–1947) was a Chicago attorney and was best known for founding Rotary International in 1905. Rotary International is a service organization that currently has well over 1.2 million members worldwide operating in 34,000 clubs. Rtn Greg Wood said, "The motto of Rotary International is "Service Above Self". While the club provides a venue for both business and social networking, our primary focus is on local and international service projects. These honorees are individuals who meet high professional and personal standards and have demonstrated outstanding service to the community, through involvement and good citizenship, criteria set forth by Paul Harris."

The Paul Harris Fellow Recognition is the highest honour a Rotary Club can bestow on a person, either inside or outside the club. The award therefore acknowledges "service above self" which that individual has offered to their community, their nation or indeed to the world. Our new Paul Harris Fellow recipients will stand with notables such as Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela, Kofi Anann, Prince Charles, Indira Gandhi, King Hussein of Jordan and Pope John Paul II.

Nicole St.Laurent Ward was recognized for her role as an inspiration and champion for people with arthritis and fibromyalgia. An outstanding volunteer in the community, St.Laurent Ward leads the Moncton FibroArthe Support Group, Chairs the Moncton Branch of the Arthritis Society, and participates in many United Way events.

Peter Butler was recognized for his leadership in the community as a Charter member of Moncton Headstart's Children's Charity Classic golf tournament organizing committee, as Director of the MetroTones Pop Chorus and past Director of two Barbershop choruses, as well as his past involvement with the Riverview Kinsmen and K-40 Clubs which supported many local charities.

Helen MacDonnell was recognized for her work with mental health after losing her brother 11 years ago. She gathered 54 women into her kitchen to talk about mental health and how to bring this illness to the public for open discussion. Women and Wellness events are now being held in 16 communities across the country with thousands of women raising over \$1 million for the cause to date.

Charline Robichaud Manuel was recognized for her volunteer work in schools to spread the message of MADD after a tragic accident where a drunk driver almost took her life. After 76 days in the hospital and almost as many surgeries, she feels fortunate to be alive with her family. She has now made it her mission to tell her story to as many people as she can, travelling extensively throughout Eastern Canada, to warn about the dangers of drinking and driving.

This Recognition is named after the founder of Rotary International and RCMWR has made a donation to the Rotary Foundation in each honoree's name. The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

The Rotary Club of Moncton West and Riverview has regular meetings every Friday noon at 12:15pm until 1:15pm at the Crowne Plaza, 1005 Main Street, downtown Moncton.

For more information about Rotary International, speak to a member or go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

Contact:

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